

### **REMARKS**

Claims 19-34 are pending in the above-identified application. Claim 19 has been amended so as to insert the same feature recited in presently allowable claim 31 in view of the remarks in the Final Office Action that this feature was not recited in claim 19. In addition, claims 33 and 34 have been amended so that these claims have proper antecedent basis in order to correct the form thereof.

It is respectfully requested that the above-noted change to claim 19 be entered of record and consider by the Examiner. First, it is noted that the feature inserted into claim 19 is already recited in allowable claim 31, such that the insertion of this feature into claim 19 does not raise any new issue. Secondly, no new claims have been added.

#### **Allowable Claims**

Claims 31-34 have been indicated as being allowable. The Examiner states at pages 8-10 of the Final Office Action that the feature of an annular opening between the distribution plate edge and the reactor walls was not recited in previously rejected claims 19-30, such that these claims remained rejected, while claims 31-34 reciting this feature have been allowed. Consequently, upon the insertion of this feature into claim 19, it is submitted that claim 19, as well as all of claims 20-30 ultimately depending from claim 19, should now also be allowed. Thus, all of the presently pending claims 19-34 should be indicated as being allowed.

#### **Issues under 35 USC 103(a)**

Claims 19-21, 23-26 and 28-30 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hämäläinen '243 (US 5,627,243) in view of Rhee '149 (US 4,933,149).

Claims 22 and 27 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hämäläinen '243 and Rhee '149, in view of Yamamoto '798 (EP 0 721 798) and Grott '208 (US 5,837,208).


It is submitted for the above reasons that claims 19-30 have been properly amended so as to be allowable such that the above rejections should be withdrawn.

If any questions arise in the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, Andrew D. Meikle (Reg. No. 32,868), in the Washington Metropolitan Area at the phone number listed below.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

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Respectfully submitted,

By   
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Attachments